SUGO MUSIC GROUP
DISTRIBUTION & PUBLISHING / 1985

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO MUSIC ROYALTIES

For Artists, Songwriters, Record Labels, Publishers & Music Rights Holders

Sugo Music Group | 2026

An educational guide to music royalties, streaming revenue, performance and mechanical royalties, publishing income, licensing, synchronization, and royalty collection.

Read the Current Online Edition →

INTRODUCTION

This guide is part of the Sugo Music Group Music Knowledge Center, providing educational resources for artists, labels, songwriters, publishers, and music rights holders.

Welcome to the Sugo Music Group Music Royalty Guide, your educational resource for understanding how music royalties are generated, collected, and paid in today's music industry. Whether you're an artist, songwriter, record label, publisher, or music rights holder, this guide provides clear explanations, practical insights, and links to in-depth articles covering streaming royalties, performance and mechanical royalties, publishing income, licensing, synchronization, royalty collection, and other essential topics to help you better understand the different ways music generates revenue.

Understanding Music Royalties

◆ *How Do Music Royalties Work?*

Music royalties can come from many different uses of sound recordings and musical compositions. Learn the fundamentals of music royalties, the differences between master and publishing rights, the major types of royalties generated by music, who may be entitled to receive them, and how royalties move through the music industry to artists, songwriters, publishers, and other rights holders. *Read Article →*

◆ *Music Publishing: Extra Revenue from Melodies and Lyrics*

Music publishing can generate important additional revenue from the underlying melodies and lyrics of a song. Learn how publishing rights differ from master recording rights, how musical compositions generate royalties, and why songwriters, composers, publishers, and other rights holders should understand the publishing side of the music royalty ecosystem. *Read Article →*

Publishing & Songwriter Royalties

◆ *Publishing Royalties: A Guide for Songwriters and Music Publishers*

Performance royalties may be generated when musical compositions are publicly performed or transmitted through eligible uses. Learn how performance royalties work, the role performing rights organizations and other collection societies play in licensing, collecting, and distributing applicable royalties, and how songwriters and publishers can receive performance royalties from uses of their compositions. *Read Article →*

◆ *Mechanical Royalties: A Guide for Songwriters and Music Publishers*

Mechanical royalties are publishing royalties generated from certain reproductions and distributions of musical compositions. Learn how mechanical royalties differ from performance royalties, which physical and digital uses may generate them, how mechanical rights are licensed and administered, and why accurate composition registrations are important for songwriters, composers, publishers, and other rights holders. *Read Article →*

Streaming Royalties & Artist Payouts

◆ *Music Streaming Services That Pay Artists the Most*

Streaming services use different payment structures and royalty models to compensate music rights holders. Explore how streaming payouts work, the different types of royalties generated through streaming, factors that can influence earnings, and how royalty payments may vary among major streaming platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube Music, SoundCloud, and others. ***Read Article →***

Digital Performance & Synchronization Royalties

◆ *What Is SoundExchange? A Guide for Musicians*

SoundExchange plays an important role in collecting and distributing digital performance royalties for sound recordings used by certain non-interactive digital services. Learn how SoundExchange works, which types of music uses it covers, how royalties are distributed among featured artists, sound recording copyright owners, and eligible non-featured performers, and why eligible musicians should understand this distinct source of royalty income. For additional information about royalties from non-interactive digital services, visit SoundExchange. ***Read Article →***

◆ *Micro-Sync Royalties: What Musicians Need to Know*

Digital content can create additional licensing and royalty opportunities for musicians. Learn how micro-sync uses may occur in YouTube videos, podcasts, social media content, online advertising, and other digital media, how sound recordings and musical compositions may generate revenue from these uses, and why micro-sync licensing can provide another potential income stream for music rights holders. ***Read Article →***

Related Music Royalties Resources

Explore Sugo Music Distribution →

Explore Sugo Music Publishing →

Explore the Sugo Music Knowledge Center →

RESOURCES & AUTHORITY

Read the Current Online Edition

For the latest online edition of this guide and related information:

Read the Current Music Royalty Guide →

About Sugo Music Group

Sugo Music Group is a global music distribution and publishing company serving recording artists, record labels, songwriters, publishers, and music rights holders worldwide. Founded in 1983, Sugo Music Group provides digital music distribution, publishing administration, royalty collection, synchronization licensing, rights management, and related music-industry services.

Visit Sugo Music Group →

About the Author

Stevan Pasero is the founder and CEO of Sugo Music Group, a recording artist, composer, guitarist, music executive, and author of *Musical Darwinism: The Past Is the Portal to the Future of Music*. His career in recorded music spans more than four decades, encompassing music creation, distribution, publishing, licensing, and rights administration.

Sugo Music Knowledge Center

Guides, FAQs, agreements, and educational resources covering music distribution, publishing, royalties, licensing, and the music industry.

Explore the Knowledge Center →

Additional Resources

Music Distribution Guide

Learn how digital music distribution works, including streaming platforms, distribution partners, fees, royalties, release planning, metadata, and industry best practices.

Read the Music Distribution Guide →

Music Publishing Guide

Learn how music publishing works, including publishing administration, performance and mechanical royalties, licensing, synchronization, and royalty collection.

Read the Music Publishing Guide →

Music Distribution Agreement

Review Sugo Music Group's current Music Distribution Agreement, including terms, services, royalties, and frequently asked questions.

View the Music Distribution Agreement →

Music Publishing Agreement

Review Sugo Music Group's current Music Publishing Agreement covering publishing administration, licensing, royalty collection, rights, and related services.

View the Music Publishing Agreement →

 © 2026 SOUNDLINK ENTERTAINMENT LLC